

TREASURE

OUR

maryland

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

MARYLAND'S COASTAL ZONE INCLUDES THE RICH BIOLOGICAL, ECOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY; THE ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS; AND ITS ATLANTIC FRONTAGE. MAJOR INDUSTRIES THAT DEPEND ON THE COAST OF MARYLAND INCLUDE SEAFOOD, SHIPPING, AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, AND RECREATION. SIGNIFICANT COASTAL ISSUES INCLUDE HIGH RATES OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT, NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION IMPACTS, SHORELINE EROSION, AND SEA LEVEL RISE.

THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF MARYLAND'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

miles of coastline
4,360

coastal population in 2000
3,592,430

fy03 czma core
(section 306) funding
\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$526,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$310,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve operations, education,
monitoring and stewardship
\$550,000

THE CZMA IN MARYLAND

The CZMA establishes two programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects key coastal areas for long-term scientific study, education, and resource stewardship.

Maryland Coastal Program

Approved: 1978

Lead Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The Maryland Management Program is comprised of several state planning and regulatory programs, as well as the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Critical Areas Protection Program, which is recognized as a national model for fostering environmentally sensitive development in coastal areas. The Maryland Coastal



Program has used coastal zone management funds to undertake various projects, studies, and initiatives for the protection of the Chesapeake Bay, coastal bays, and other critical natural resources.

The Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program's recent accomplishments include:

- *developing an assessment tool for targeting erosion control assistance based on economic and environmental risks.*
- *assisting local governments with developing Watershed Restoration Action Strategies. The Coastal Program is fulfilling Department of Natural Resource's commitment to develop 50 of the 85 local watershed plans called for in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.*
- *promoting the adoption of voluntary pollution control plans by more than 50 marinas through the state's Clean Marinas Initiative which has served as the model for other state clean marina programs. The Initiative is funded with CZMA grant funds through the state's coastal nonpoint source program which is one of only ten in the nation to receive federal approval and the first to do so.*
- *improving public access at sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay through the construction of boardwalks, restrooms, and the like.*
- *elevating the importance of the Coastal Bays by serving as the state's representative on the Coastal Bays Program and facilitating committees of stakeholder groups for the Coastal Bays Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.*

Maryland's National Estuarine Research Reserve Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve-Maryland

Designation: Monie Bay, 1985; Jug Bay and Otter Point Creek, 1990

Lead Agency: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The multi-component Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maryland reflects the diversity of estuarine habitats found within the bay. The purpose of the Chesapeake Bay-MD Reserve is to manage protected estuarine areas as natural field laboratories and to develop a coordinated program of research, monitoring, and education.

Research and monitoring efforts in the Chesapeake Bay-MD Reserve are as varied as the habitats within the components. Ongoing projects include examining the effects of nutrient cycling in marshes, the migration patterns of Sora rails, the use of wetlands by box turtles, the decline of wild rice, and the life histories and restoration of freshwater submerged aquatic vegetation.

A variety of educational opportunities and experiences are offered at all three components. From technical workshops for environmental professionals to field presentations for government agency staff, programs explain and interpret research results for coastal decision makers and others whose actions influence the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Programs include Wetlands and Wildlife Field Days for all 4th grade students in Somerset County, linking students with ongoing research and monitoring projects, and participation by volunteers in conducting long term monitoring projects.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The Coastal and Watershed Resources Advisory Committee has been associated with the Maryland Coastal Program since its inception. The committee, comprised of local government agency and citizen representatives, business representatives, environmental organizations and other coastal stakeholders, advises the Maryland Coastal Program and the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. Last year the committee sponsored, in association with the Maryland Coastal Program and the Chesapeake Bay-Maryland reserve, a conference on the beneficial and innovative uses of dredged material.